

Serial No.: 10/674,428
Atty. Docket No.: P69160US0

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A collecting bag for human body wastes, comprising:

a bag member formed by a first and a second film blank with joined edges, an inlet opening being provided in one of said first and second film blanks;

a discharge portion defining a longitudinal direction and starting at a proximal end at a distance from the inlet opening and extending between two end sections of said film blanks to a distal end, a length of said second film blank being greater than a length of said first film blank to form an extension extending beyond a distal edge of said first film blank;

a discharge opening being formed between said extension and said distal edge of the first film blank;

said discharge portion being foldable and unfoldable by at least one folding in said longitudinal direction between the distal and proximal ends to bring the discharge portion from an open unfolded condition to a closed folded condition and vice versa;

Serial No.: 10/674,428
Atty. Docket No.: P69160US0

a locking device provided at the discharge portion for locking the bag in said closed folded condition of the discharge portion; and

a first plate member positioned on the first film blank adjacent said distal edge and a second plate member positioned on the extension of the second film blank adjacent said discharge opening, each plate member having a height defined in the longitudinal direction of the discharge portion between respective proximal and distal edges of said plate member, a width defined in a direction transverse to the longitudinal direction, and a thickness, each plate member being formed from a relatively stiff semi-rigid material lacking in suppleness in a thickness direction, and a distance between the distal edge of the first plate member and the proximal edge of the second plate member being smaller than the thickness of the first plate member.

2. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first plate member has a larger height than the second plate member.

Serial No.: 10/674,428
Atty. Docket No.: P69160US0

3. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first plate member has a height-width ratio in the interval from 1:7 to 1:2.

4. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 3, wherein the ratio between the heights of the first and the second plate member lies in the interval from 1:1 to 4:1.

5. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and/or the second plate member has an arc-shaped configuration with respect to the plane of the discharge portion.

6. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second plate member is positioned on the outer side of the extension of the second film blank.

7. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein said locking device is provided close to the proximal end of said discharge portion to allow folding of said discharge portion by at least one subsequent folding following said at least one folding.

Serial No.: 10/674,428
Atty. Docket No.: P69160US0

8. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first plate member has a larger height than the second plate member, said locking device being provided close to the proximal end of said discharge portion to allow folding of said discharge portion by at least one subsequent folding following said at least one folding, said at least one subsequent folding being defined by the proximal edge of the first plate member.

9. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 7, wherein said locking device includes foldable locking strips projecting from opposite side edges of the discharge portion and is provided at one surface with first locking elements engageable with second locking elements provided on a surface part of said discharge portion, said second locking elements being located in alignment with said locking strips after said at least one subsequent folding.

10. (Currently Amended) A collecting bag for human body wastes, comprising:

Serial No.: 10/674,428
Atty. Docket No.: P69160US0

a bag member formed by a first film blank and a second film blank with joined edges, an inlet opening being provided in one of said first and second film blanks;

a discharge portion defining a longitudinal direction and extending between two end sections of said film blanks to a distal end, a length of said second film blank being greater than a length of said first film blank to form an extension extending beyond a distal edge of said first film blank;

a discharge opening formed between said extension and said distal edge of the first film blank;

said discharge portion being foldable and unfoldable by at least one folding in said longitudinal direction to bring the discharge portion from an open unfolded condition to a closed folded condition and vice versa, ~~with a locking device being provided at a proximal end of said discharge portion for locking the bag in said closed folded condition of the discharge portion;~~

a first ~~semi-rigid~~ plate member made of a relatively stiff material lacking in suppleness in a thickness direction and positioned on the first film blank and having a distal edge adjacent said first film blank distal edge;

a second ~~semi-rigid~~ plate member made of a relatively stiff material lacking in suppleness in a thickness direction and

Serial No.: 10/674,428
Atty. Docket No.: P69160US0

and positioned on the extension of the second film blank and having a proximal edge adjacent said discharge opening; and said first plate member distal edge and said second plate member proximal edge being separated by a distance that is smaller than a thickness of said first plate member such that, when the discharge portion is initially folded to bring the second plate member against the first plate member, the distal edge of the first plate member acts as a pivot, and a stretching effect is created on the second film blank to effectively seal the discharge opening ~~without~~ with substantially no deformation of the plate members in the thickness direction.

11. (Currently Amended) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 10, wherein each ~~semi-rigid~~ relatively stiff plate member is formed from a material including nylon, polyethylene or polypropylene.

12. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 10 wherein each plate member has a height defined in the longitudinal direction of the discharge portion, and a width defined in a direction transverse to the longitudinal direction,

Serial No.: 10/674,428
Atty. Docket No.: P69160US0

the height of the first plate member being larger than the height of the second plate member.

13. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 12, wherein the first plate member has a height to width ratio of from 1:7 to 1:2.

14. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 13, wherein the ratio between the heights of the first and second plate members ranges from 1:1 to 4:1.

15. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 10, wherein the first and/or the second plate member has an arc-shaped configuration with respect to the plane of the discharge portion.

16. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 10, wherein the second plate member is positioned on the outer side of the extension of the second film blank.

17. (Previously Presented) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 10, wherein the first plate member is wholly on one side of

Serial No.: 10/674,428
Atty. Docket No.: P69160US0

said discharge opening and said second plate member is wholly on an opposite side of said discharge opening, the two plate members being arranged side by side longitudinally.

18. (New) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 10, further comprising a locking device provided at a proximal end of said discharge portion for locking the bag in said closed folded condition of the discharge portion.

19. (New) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 5, wherein said discharge opening is opened slightly in the unfolded condition as a result of said arc-shaped configuration.

20. (New) The collecting bag as claimed in claim 15, wherein said discharge opening is opened slightly in the unfolded condition as a result of said arc-shaped configuration.